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NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

PROVISION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Activities of the secretariat to facilitate the provision of financial and technical support, and information on communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The activities of the secretariat to facilitate the provision of financial and technical support to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) for the preparation of national communications are mandated by Article 8.2(c) of the Convention and various decisions by the Conference of the Parties (COP).[1]

2. Decision 10/CP.2, in particular, requests the secretariat "to facilitate assistance to Parties, particularly developing country Parties, in the preparation of their initial communications, through the organization of workshops at the regional level; to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences in the development of emission factors and activity data for the estimation of the inventory, as well as, on request, for other elements of information in the initial communication; and to provide a report to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at each of their sessions."

[1] See decisions 10/CP.2, 12/CP.4 and 8/CP.5. The full texts of these decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second, fourth and fifth sessions are contained in documents FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1, FCCC/CP/1998/16/Add.1 and FCCC/CP/1999/6/Add.1, respectively.

B. Scope

3. The present document reports on the activities undertaken by the secretariat since the second part of the thirteenth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (The Hague, 13 to 18 November 2000). Section II of the report describes the activities of the secretariat to facilitate assistance to Parties. These activities include support to the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), and participation in other seminars and workshops related to the preparation of national communications. Section III provides an overview of the status of preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties. It outlines the problems and constraints identified by non-Annex I Parties and the lessons learned in the process of preparing their national communication, based on the responses to a questionnaire designed and sent out by the secretariat.[2]

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

A. Support to the Consultative Group of Experts

4. Pursuant to decision 8/CP.5, para. 5, the UNFCCC secretariat has continued to facilitate the work of the CGE in discharging its mandate. The main objective of the expert group is to improve national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

5. The CGE, since its establishment on 8 June 2000, has held three meetings,[3] three regional workshops and one interregional workshop.[4] The meetings were held to discuss the progress of work towards the implementation of its mandate and to consider the reports of its regional and interregional workshops. The fourth meeting of the CGE will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco on 25 and 26 October 2001. A preliminary report of the CGE (FCCC/SBI/2001/8) was presented to the SBI at its fourteenth session and the report covering its present mandate is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2001/15. The SBI took note of the preliminary report of the CGE and invited Parties to submit views on the report and also to provide views on the current progress of the process aiming at improvement of guidelines for subsequent national communications of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, in accordance with decision 8/CP.5, by 15 September 2001.

6. In response to a request by the SBI at its fourteenth session, the secretariat has compiled the information on the Parties' views in a miscellaneous document (FCCC/SBI/2001/MISC.2) and prepared a consolidated report (FCCC/SBI/2001/INF.11) for consideration by the SBI at its fifteenth session.

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[2] An overview of the status of preparation of initial national communications of non-Annex I Parties is available on the UNFCCC secretariat web site (http://www.unfccc.int/resource/docs/nc/DISPNC_WEB.htm).

[3] The reports of the three meetings of the CGE are contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2000/16, FCCC/SBI/2001/2 and FCCC/SBI/2001/3.

[4] The reports covering the four workshops of the CGE are contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2000/INF.4, FCCC/SBI/2000/INF.9, FCCC/SBI/2000/INF.10 and FCCC/SBI/2001/INF.1.

B. Participation in regional meetings other than those of the CGE

7. Since the preparation of the report on the activities undertaken by the secretariat to facilitate assistance to Parties (FCCC/SBI/2000/INF.7) presented to the thirteenth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, part II (The Hague, 13 to 18 November 2000), the secretariat has participated in and made important contributions to five regional meetings.

8. The first meeting was the Eastern and Southern Africa regional exchange workshop on the preparation of national communications of non-Annex I countries, 14 to 15 August 2000, Nairobi, Kenya. This workshop, organized by the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP),[5] had the objective of providing a forum for experts to exchange experience in the preparation of various elements of the integration of climate change concerns into national planning and issues related to capacity building for the effective implementation of the Convention. Thirty-seven participants from 20 countries attended this workshop with the aim of improving capacities and capabilities to collect, collate, disseminate and use data and information relevant to the preparation of national communications and implementation of climate change projects.

9. The secretariat made presentations on national inventories of greenhouse gases, climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments, greenhouse gas abatement analysis and financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications. The presentations were based on information contained in five national communications submitted by countries from the African region. The secretariat also made a presentation on decision 8/CP.5 with emphasis placed on the mandate and terms of reference of the CGE.

10. The second meeting was the regional exchange workshop on climate change for the Asian region, which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 26 to 29 September 2000. The workshop was organized by the NCSP with the aim of identifying a range of uncertainties in climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments and approaches for dealing with them; investigating ways to integrate across sectors at various scales and units; considering practical approaches to assessing adaptation to climate change; and considering regional and/or subregional approaches to undertaking climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments. A total of 50 participants from 15 countries in the Asian region participated in the workshop.

11. The secretariat made a presentation on the compilation and synthesis of adaptation options contained in the national communications of five country Parties in Asia. The presentation outlined the result of adaptation assessments and problems and constraints encountered. The outcomes of the workshop included: (a) an appreciation by participants of the inherent difficulties and the various ways in which uncertainties can be dealt with in vulnerability and adaptation assessments, (b) an appreciation that integration can be achieved across activities, sectors and regions particularly in such areas as water resources, agriculture and coastal zones, and (c) an agreement for a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project development facility,

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[5] The NCSP is implemented jointly by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme with Global Environment Facility funding. The aims of the NSCP are to promote the quality, comprehensiveness and timeliness of initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and to ensure timely and cost-effective implementation of GEF projects on climate change enabling activities.

block B funding proposal for capacity building for stage II adaptation to climate change in the Asian region.

12. The third meeting was the regional workshop on climate change for South America, held in Asuncion, Paraguay from 12 to 14 December 2000. The workshop was also organized by the NCSP and was attended by participants from nine countries and three international organizations.

13. The objectives of the workshop included the identification of the national and regional priority activities to be undertaken within the framework of implementing the second phase of the GEF enabling activity (top-up) projects, as well as options for enhancing national capacities, regional cooperation and the needs for technical assistance. The workshop also discussed the draft regional proposal for the analysis of greenhouse gas mitigation options prepared at Montevideo, Uruguay.

14. The secretariat made a presentation on the process and status of preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. Participants exchanged national experience in the process of preparation and follow-up activities and noted that good progress has been made in the process of preparation of national communications by Latin American countries. It was agreed that national capacities built in the course of preparing national communications be sustained. These capacities include those relating to institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

15. The workshop stressed the role of technology transfer in addressing the problem of climate change and that developing countries require financial resources and capacity building to effectively implement the Convention.

16. Participants gave their consent to a regional proposal for undertaking abatement analysis in Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective of the proposal was to strengthen national capacity in non-Annex I Parties for carrying out abatement analysis. It also includes the development of methodological tools to assist non-Annex I countries in developing baseline scenarios, cost estimates and screening of abatement options. Participants suggested that the proposal be integrated into the work programme of the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) for 2001 and 2002.

17. The fourth meeting was the workshop of the consultative and technical committee on climate change for the Maghreb region. The meeting, which was held from 14 to 15 June 2001 in Tunis, Tunisia, was organized by the GEF/UNDP with the objective of providing a forum for experts to exchange information and experience on ways of improving the preparation of the initial national communications of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The secretariat made a presentation on the preparation of national communications of non-Annex I Parties.

18. Participants discussed issues relating to the preparation of national inventories of greenhouse gases as well as impacts, vulnerability and adaptation assessments. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss the third assessment report of the IPCC, finalize discussions on the terms of reference of the consultative and technical committee on climate change in each of the three countries and to launch the Maghreb web site on climate change. The output of the workshop will be presented at a side event to be organized on the margins of

COP 7. The meeting was attended by 50 participants from four countries and resource persons from international organizations.

19. The fifth meeting was the eleventh Asia-Pacific seminar on climate change, which was held in Kitakyushu City, Japan, from 28 to 31 August 2001. The seminar was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Fukuoka Prefecture, Kitakyushu City; the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, in cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy and Industry of Japan. It was attended by experts from 18 countries as well as representatives of 12 international organizations. Resource persons from Japanese research institutes, universities, and private companies were also in attendance. The main objective of the seminar was to exchange information and experience among experts of the region and to explore avenues to further facilitate collaboration among countries in the region to address climate change.

20. The secretariat made two presentations, one on the outcomes of the resumed sixth session of the Conference of the Parties and the other on the status of preparation of national communications of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

21. Outcomes of the seminar included the need to build upon the Bonn Agreements so as to ensure success at COP 7 in Marrakesh, Morocco; ensure prompt and effective implementation of the Asia-Pacific regional action programme for the period 2001-2005, in particular, its programme activities in the areas of climate change and sustainable energy development; and encourage international cooperative efforts by all Parties, the GEF and its implementing agencies (UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank) for the effective implementation of the Convention.

22. Other conclusions of the meeting were, inter alia, the need to standardize baselines for clean development mechanism (CDM) projects in the energy, industry and transport sectors to ensure a prompt start of the CDM, address issues relating to criteria and procedures including legal and institutional arrangements for screening, evaluating and approving CDM projects in the host country, provide adequate resources to country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and improve the quality and timeliness of national communication of developing countries.

C. Support to the National Communications Support Programme and other GEF activities

23. The UNFCCC secretariat provided support for the work of the NCSP including co-chairing its Advisory Committee. Within the framework of the implementation of climate change enabling activities in Africa, Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia and Pacific, Arab States, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the NCSP had provided technical assistance to about 130 countries. Many of these countries that participated in the activities of the NCSP have submitted their national communications to the UNFCCC secretariat, and some of them are accessing GEF funds for their Phase II enabling activities. The final project evaluation of the NCSP states that the Project Advisory Committee, with members from the GEF and UNFCCC secretariats, was instrumental to its success.

24. The secretariat participated in some workshops of the NCSP as resource persons, and assisted in the planning of the workshops and helped to review the progress of implementation of NCSP activities. It also reviewed technical materials of the programme which included the MAGICC/SCENGEN Model for Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment, the NCSP newsletter, "Communications Quarterly" as well as project proposals on developing socio-economic scenarios for use in vulnerability and adaptation assessments. The secretariat also provided comments on the UNEP-Risø Economics of Greenhouse Gas Limitations: Methodological Guidelines. It revised the terms of reference of experts being recruited to assist with the implementation of GEF regional projects on capacity building for improving national GHG inventories in West Africa and in Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

25. Furthermore, the secretariat provided comments on all GEF enabling activity project proposals submitted for funding by non-Annex I Parties from October 2000 to the present time. The project activities included those which relate to the preparation of initial and second national communications as well as activities in support of the implementation of phase II enabling activities. Specific activities covered under these project proposals are outlined in paragraph 59 and illustrated in figure 3. The project proposals are designed to strengthen national climate change teams to implement the UNFCCC both at the national and regional levels.

26. The secretariat also provided comments on the GEF regional project proposals on capacity building for improving national GHG inventories in West Africa; capacity building for observing systems for climate change, the assessment of technology transfer needs; capacity building for stage II adaptation to climate change projects in Central America, Mexico and Cuba, and on the Caribbean mainstreaming adaptation to climate change.

III. STATUS OF PREPARATION OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

27. The results of the analysis presented in this section of the report are based on information contained in initial national communications and on responses from non-Annex I Parties to a questionnaire distributed by the secretariat. Information provided by the GEF, its implementing agencies, and bilateral programmes were also utilized.

28. In order to provide Parties with an overview of the status of preparation of national communications and to better identify the problems and constraints encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications and phase II enabling activity projects, the secretariat prepared and administered a questionnaire to those Parties. It provided a framework for those Parties to provide information on the status of preparation of their initial and second national communications. In 2000, 86 non-Annex I Parties responded to the questionnaire on initial national communications. In 2001, the secretariat requested non-Annex I Parties to either update information provided in response to the previous questionnaire or to provide new information if they had not responded to the questionnaire administered in 2000. Some Parties were also requested to fill out a section of the questionnaire on phase II enabling activities or the section on the status of preparation of second national communications, as applicable.

29. Between January and September 2001, a total of 97 non-Annex I Parties responded to the questionnaire and provided information on national communications and/or phase II enabling

activities. Of the 97 respondents, 36 were from Africa, 31 from Asia and the Pacific, 21 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and nine from Eastern and Central Europe.

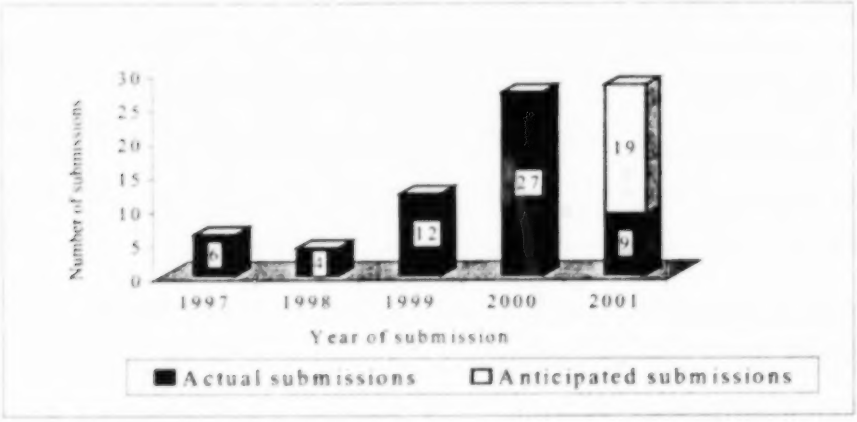
30. Fifty-eight Parties provided information with regard to GEF phase II enabling activities projects and 11 Parties supplied information on the status of preparation of second national communications.

31. A brief summary of the main findings is given below.

A. Status of preparation of initial national communications

32. As at 2 October 2001, 58 initial national communications have been submitted to the secretariat (in the following chronological order): Jordan, Argentina, Uruguay, Senegal, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Zimbabwe, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Egypt, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Lebanon, Chile, El Salvador, Lesotho, the Philippines, Azerbaijan, Singapore, Malaysia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Mali, Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Ecuador, Honduras, Seychelles, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Israel, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Marshall Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Algeria, Ghana, Panama, Nicaragua, Peru, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba and Niue (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Submission trends for national communications



33. Argentina, the Federated States of Micronesia and Uruguay have submitted addenda to their initial national communications. Argentina submitted an addendum covering inventory data for 1990, 1994 and 1997. Uruguay submitted two addenda covering inventory data for 1994 and 1998 as well as comparative studies of GHG emissions for 1990, 1994 and 1998. The Federated States of Micronesia submitted an addendum which provides additional information on all elements of its national communication.

34. Five Parties responding to the questionnaire for the first time indicated that they had yet to commence work on the preparation of their national communications. Equatorial Guinea has not provided any information relating to the preparation of its national communication and

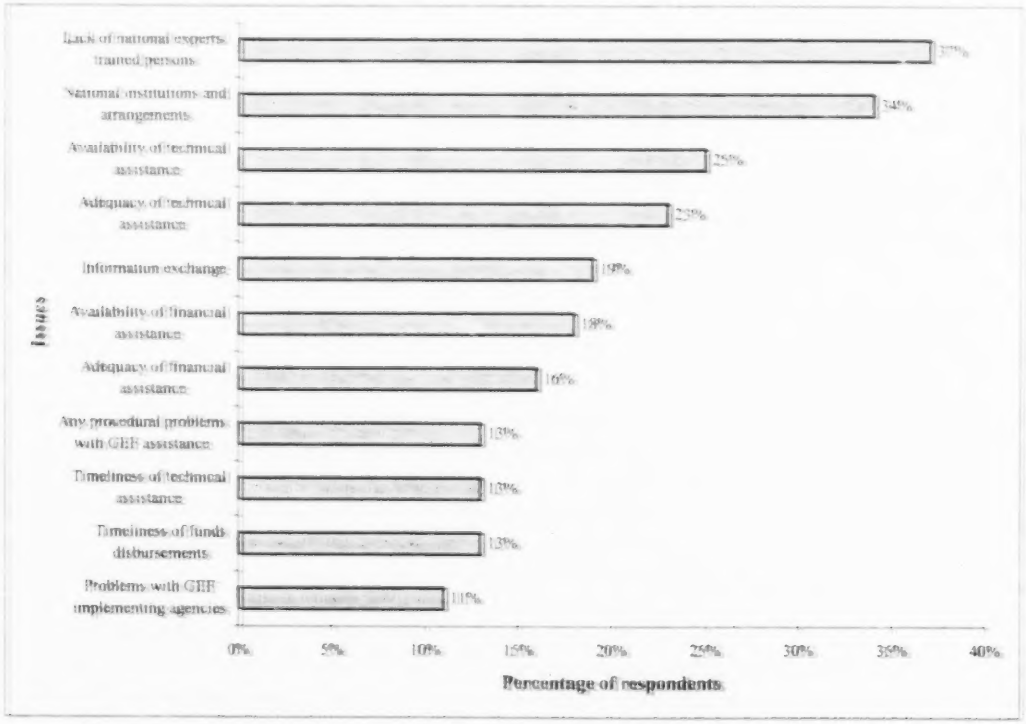
indicated that it has only recently ratified the Convention. The majority of non-Annex I Parties are presently engaged in the process of preparing their initial national communications.

35. A number of issues pertaining to the preparation of initial national communications by non-Annex I Parties were identified during the analysis of the responses to the questionnaire administered by the secretariat. Information on initial national communications obtained from 102 Parties was used in the analysis. It includes responses from the 16 Parties who filled in the questionnaire for the first time in 2001 and 86 Parties that completed the questionnaire in 2000. Of the 86 Parties that provided information in 2000, 30 of them provided updated information in 2001.

General problems and constraints

36. A number of general problems and constraints encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the course of preparing their initial national communications were identified. These problems include the lack of national experts and trained persons, lack of suitable national institutions and appropriate institutional arrangements and non-availability and/or inadequacy of technical and financial assistance. Other constraints relate to inadequate facilities for information exchange (see figure 2).

Figure 2: Major problems and constraints encountered by Parties during the preparation of their national communications for the period 2000 and 2001



37. Some Parties indicated that they encountered difficulties of procedural nature in respect to financial and technical assistance from the GEF and its implementing agencies which often led to delays in accessing needed assistance. These problems were encountered mainly in the initial phases of project implementation. The National Communications Support Programme was mentioned as having helped improve the delivery of technical assistance.

Greenhouse gas inventories

38. Most non-Annex I Parties reporting base year information to prepare their national greenhouse gas inventories indicated that the base years used were those proposed by the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications. Sixty-six per cent of respondents used 1994 as their base year, 32 per cent used 1990, and 11 per cent used other base years (mainly 1995), owing to the lack of national data for either 1990 or 1994.

39. A number of countries indicated that they had developed data sets for years other than 1994 and 1990. Many of them, however, stressed that they did not have complete sets of data covering all relevant source categories of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

40. Approximately half of all respondents (58 per cent) used only the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines, while ten per cent used the IPCC 1995 Guidelines. Twelve per cent of respondents used both versions of the IPCC Guidelines. A few Parties indicated that they have modified the IPCC Guidelines to accommodate local conditions, for example, by adding new source categories as appropriate.

41. Seventy respondents have established technical GHG inventory teams, while most of those Parties that have not done so indicated their intention to establish such teams. Twenty-five respondents indicated that they are setting up databases in a more systematic manner for the preparation of GHG inventories. Most Parties that do not have such databases expressed their willingness to develop one if financial assistance is forthcoming.

42. The main problems identified during the preparation of GHG inventories related to the lack of reliable data, particularly in the areas of land-use change and forestry and solvents; the insufficient national capacity for collection, classification, management and analysis of data; the use of uncertain emission factors; and problems in applying IPCC methodology in certain sectors.

43. Respondents from the African region and the Latin America and the Caribbean region identified the main problems in preparing their GHG inventories in the following order: lack of local emission factors, lack of reliable activity data, and the limitations in the application of IPCC methodology in certain sectors. In the Asia and the Pacific region, the main problems encountered were the lack of reliable activity data, lack of appropriate local emission factors and the need for trained national experts. A few respondents from Eastern Europe stressed the lack of both reliable data and local emission factors and the limitations of the IPCC methodology.

General description of steps

44. Forty-eight respondents reported that they have developed programmes related to national sustainable development, while most of the remaining respondents confirmed their intention to develop such programmes in the future. Many of the respondents intend to establish national research programmes dedicated to climate change. Seventeen non-Annex I countries already have such programmes in place. Only a minority of countries reported on the elaboration of national climate change educational (12) and public awareness programmes (23). Some countries indicated that they have promoted some research, education and public awareness activities related to climate change.

45. Systematic observation programmes have been developed by 29 of the respondents. Thirty-eight Parties that have yet to establish systematic observation programmes intend to do so in the future. Some Parties stressed the inadequacy of the existing observation networks to analyse climate change data, and mentioned that although some systematic observation activities have been initiated, they have not been fully developed.

46. Efforts to integrate climate change concerns into medium- and long-term planning are being made by most of the respondents (67). These efforts included the development of climate change national plans; the incorporation of climate change into national development, energy and environmental plans; and the inclusion of expenditures on climate change activities in the national budget. Other activities mentioned were the establishment of institutional frameworks such as inter-ministerial consultative commissions on climate change or national climate change committees or forums encouraging the participation of main stakeholders in planning; the integration of climate change concerns in the development of legal frameworks for implementing measures on energy, forestry, agriculture and the environment; the promotion of policy makers' awareness of different policy options relating to climate change; and the provision of training to national experts. A majority of the respondents stressed, however, that they lack adequate capacity to continue and strengthen these efforts, and expressed the need for financial resources and technical assistance.

47. Most respondents indicated that they are in the process of undertaking, or have completed, vulnerability assessments, and some of them revealed that they have used or intend to use both climate change and socio-economic scenarios, while the rest are using only climate change scenarios. Only 19 countries considered, however, that they have adequate monitoring systems for climate change impacts on terrestrial and marine ecosystems; 45 countries confirmed their intention to establish such systems.

48. The main areas selected for vulnerability assessment are water resources, agriculture, coastal zones, forestry, human health, biodiversity, energy and human settlements, in that order of priority. Other areas mentioned included tourism, fisheries, snow cover, land degradation and desertification.

49. The respondents from Africa and Eastern Europe indicated that water resources, agriculture and forestry are the three most important sectors vulnerable to the impact of climate change, while those from Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, regarded agriculture, water resources and coastal zones as the three most important sectors. These results reflect both the geographical location and the national circumstances of the respondents.

50. Sixteen respondents used general circulation models to generate scenarios of future climate change. The models used included the Canadian Climate Centre model (CCCM), Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory models (GFDL and GFDL-T), the Goddard Institute for Space Studies model (GISS), the United Kingdom Meteorological Office model (UKMO), the United Kingdom Office Model run 1989 (UK89), and Hadley Centre models. The MAGICC/SCENGEN model, a simple climate model, was used by some to generate regional climate scenarios. Some Parties also listed the use of the Water Balance model (WATBAL) for measuring climate change impacts on water resources, the habitat suitability index for wildlife, crop environment resource synthesis (CERES)-maize for agriculture and the Holdridge life zones classification and GAP models for forestry. Analysis of hydrodynamic and saline intrusion and beach erosion were used by some in the assessment of coastal zone vulnerability, while others employed risk analysis for appraising human health vulnerability.

51. Sixteen Parties responded that they have developed policy frameworks and response strategies for implementing adaptation measures, and another seven respondents expect to initiate work for developing policy frameworks and response strategies to implement adaptation options.

52. The main sectors where adaptation policy frameworks and response strategies are being assessed and formulated are water resources and agriculture, followed by human health, coastal zones, and forestry. Some Parties also made mention of initiatives being taken in the areas of energy, biodiversity, human settlements, fisheries and tourism.

53. Priority sectors varied somehow from region to region. Respondents from the Asia and the Pacific region, and the Latin America and the Caribbean region, highlighted agriculture, water resources, coastal zones and human health sectors. African respondents, however, stressed water resources, agriculture, forestry, human health and coastal zones. All four respondents from Eastern Europe are preparing adaptation policy frameworks and response strategies in the areas of water resources, agriculture and forestry.

54. Twenty Parties have completed a GHG emissions abatement assessment, another 31 are in the process of carrying out the assessment, and 17 have yet to undertake the assessment. The main sectors assessed are energy, followed by land-use change and forestry, transport, agriculture, waste management and industrial processes. After the energy sector, the transport sector seems to be more relevant for respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, while the land-use and forestry assessment is important for Africa. Twenty-nine Parties have identified options for least-cost GHG emissions abatement.

Other information

55. Most of the respondents (71) intend to include a list of projects in their initial national communications to be financed in accordance with Article 12.4. Thirty-seven respondents intend to include information for the calculation of global emission trends, such as emission projections, socio-economic scenarios, data sources, calculation methods and information regarding software and databases used in the estimation of greenhouse gas emission inventories, as well as activity data for determining GHG inventory trends for years other than the base years proposed in the UNFCCC guidelines.

B. Enabling activities, phase II (expedited financing for (interim) measures for capacity building in priority areas

56. Pursuant to decision 2/CP.4, the GEF provided funding under its expedited procedure for the implementation of specific capacity building activities by non-Annex I Parties within the framework of enabling activities phase II.

57. Based on the 58 responses to the section of the questionnaire on the status of preparation of phase II enabling activities and additional information obtained from the GEF, 67 Parties have submitted project proposals for funding of phase II enabling activities, which are designed to strengthen activities initiated during the preparation of their initial national communications and may lead to project proposals for the second national communications.

58. Forty-eight project proposals have been approved by the GEF and most Parties have started implementing the projects. One Party has completed its project activity and submitted its report to the secretariat, 18 other Parties indicated that they expect to complete their project activities in 2001, and another 20 Parties expect to do so in 2002. The approved budget for the projects varies from US$ 48,000 to US$ 100,000.

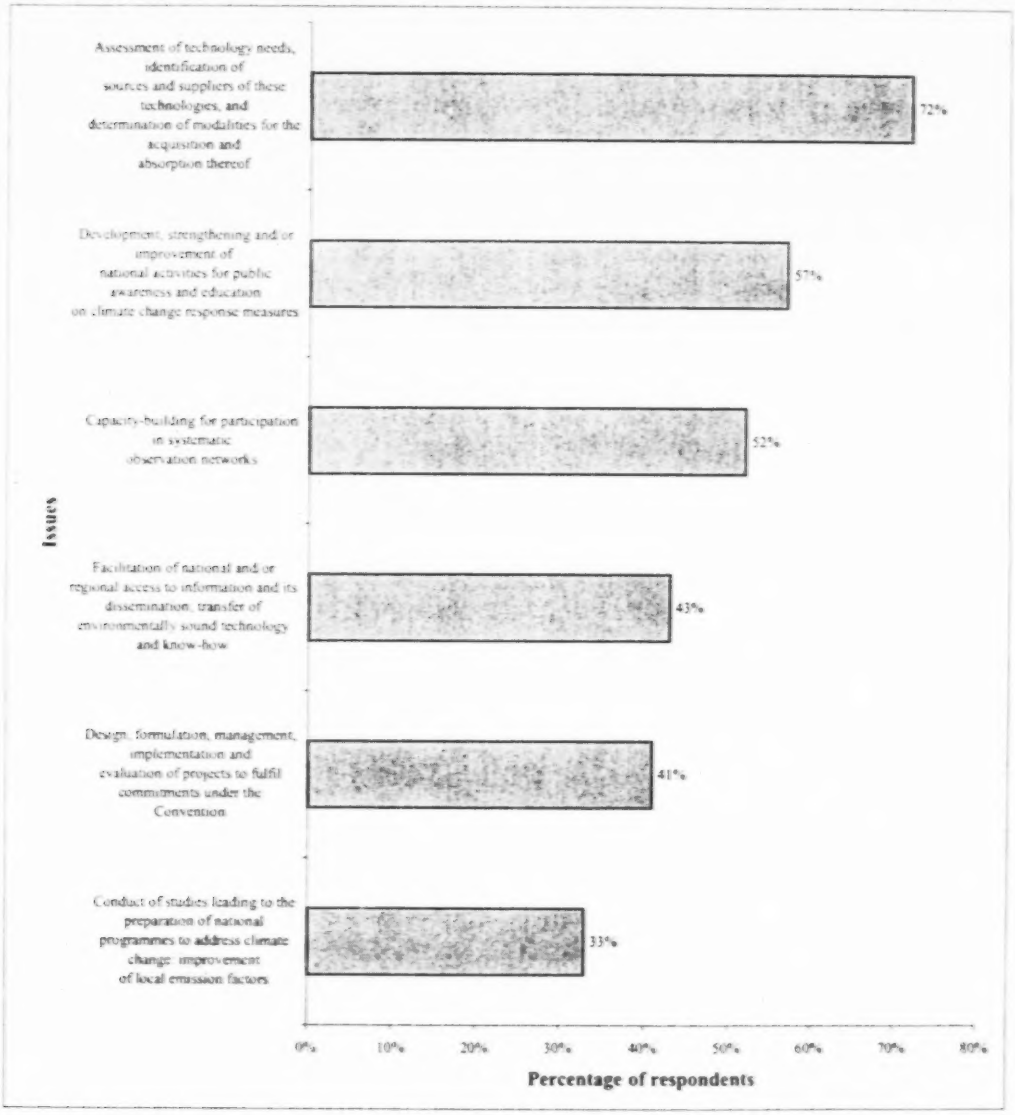
59. Figure 3 depicts the distribution of activities being implemented under phase II enabling activity projects in 58 countries that responded to part II of the questionnaire. Seventy-two per cent of responding Parties indicated that projects relate to capacity building activities in the areas of assessment of technology needs, identification of sources and suppliers of these technologies, and the determination of modalities for the acquisition and absorption of those technologies. Fifty-six per cent of respondents indicated that they would undertake projects leading to the improvement of national activities for public awareness and education on climate change. Fifty-two per cent of all responding Parties revealed that project activities include capacity building initiatives for effective participation in systematic observation networks. Project activities covering the facilitation of national and/or regional access to the information provided by international centres and networks, and for working with those centres for the dissemination of information, information services, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how would be implemented by 43 per cent of responding Parties. Forty-one per cent of respondents revealed that they have activities which relate to the design, formulation, management, implementation and evaluation of projects which would help them fulfil their commitments under the Convention. Thirty-three per cent of reporting Parties revealed that they would conduct studies leading to the preparation of national programmes to address climate change. These include the improvement of local emission factors.

C. Status of preparation of second national communications

60. Pursuant to decision 8/CP.5, all Parties that have submitted their initial national communications before the adoption of the revised guidelines for national communications, and that wish to start the preparation of their second national communications before the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, may do so using the initial guidelines. The decision further requests the GEF to provide funding for the preparation of the second national communications of those Parties, following the guidance given to it as set out in decisions 11/CP.2 and 2/CP.4.

61. One non-Annex I Party (Uruguay) has accessed funds from the GEF for the preparation of its second national communication. Eight other Parties have expressed their intention to seek funds from the GEF for the commencement of work towards the preparation of their second national communications. Mexico has already submitted its second national communication.

Figure 3: Activities being implemented by Parties under phase II enabling activities projects


Assessment of technology needs, identification of sources and suppliers of these technologies, and determination of modalities for the acquisition and absorption thereof
72%
Development, strengthening and or improvement of national activities for public awareness and education on climate change response measures
57%
Capacity-building for participation in systematic observation networks
52%
Facilitation of national and or regional access to information and its dissemination, transfer of environmentally sound technology and know-how
43%
Design, formulation, management, implementation and evaluation of projects to fulfil commitments under the Convention
41%
Conduct of studies leading to the preparation of national programmes to address climate change, improvement of local emission factors
33%
Issues
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
Percentage of respondents

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